

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 7, 2002

LB 1003

consensus when you need five votes on an eight-member board than you need four on a seven-member board or, Senator Wehrbein, in your case, nine where you have to have five...where you only have to have five. But you get to an eight-member body, you don't just have to have a majority, you have to have a pretty good majority to get the fifth vote. So I think there's safety there. It recognizes the population shift and, by the way, we have had seven commissioners in Game and Parks since 1947, and there's never been a shift in the commissioner districts. I'm supporting this because I think it's fair. I'm not supporting it because it's good for my Game and Parks District which is 5, but it's going to take one more additional vote to do business, folks. So there's still safety there for rural Nebraska if their concern is in a minority position. I think this is fair. Now there wasn't votes to get out of committee, but maybe if we could pass this, we could get that issue put behind us for a while. We could go on to the fee system and do some compromising and move this bill. If this doesn't pass, that's fine also. Have to vote your conscience. But is it right that Sarpy and Douglas County have to share a commissioner? Sarpy County hasn't had a commissioner probably in 40, 50 years. And Lancaster County has had the commissioner since 1976. I mean, the poor rural guy down there in Beatrice just probably didn't have enough pocket change for the contributions to get on the commission. I'm telling it like it is, folks. This is...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...a way to give southeast Nebraska some representation on the board, other than Lincoln or Omaha, and I still think it protects the rural areas of the state of Nebraska. Game and Parks doesn't like this real well, but they're willing to accept it. If we tried to go any further than that, I think they would resist it and so would I. Take a look at it. Draw your conclusions, get into the debate. I think it's fair. I think it's time, after 64 years, that we recognize there's been a shift in the population in the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Smith on the Beutler amendment.